

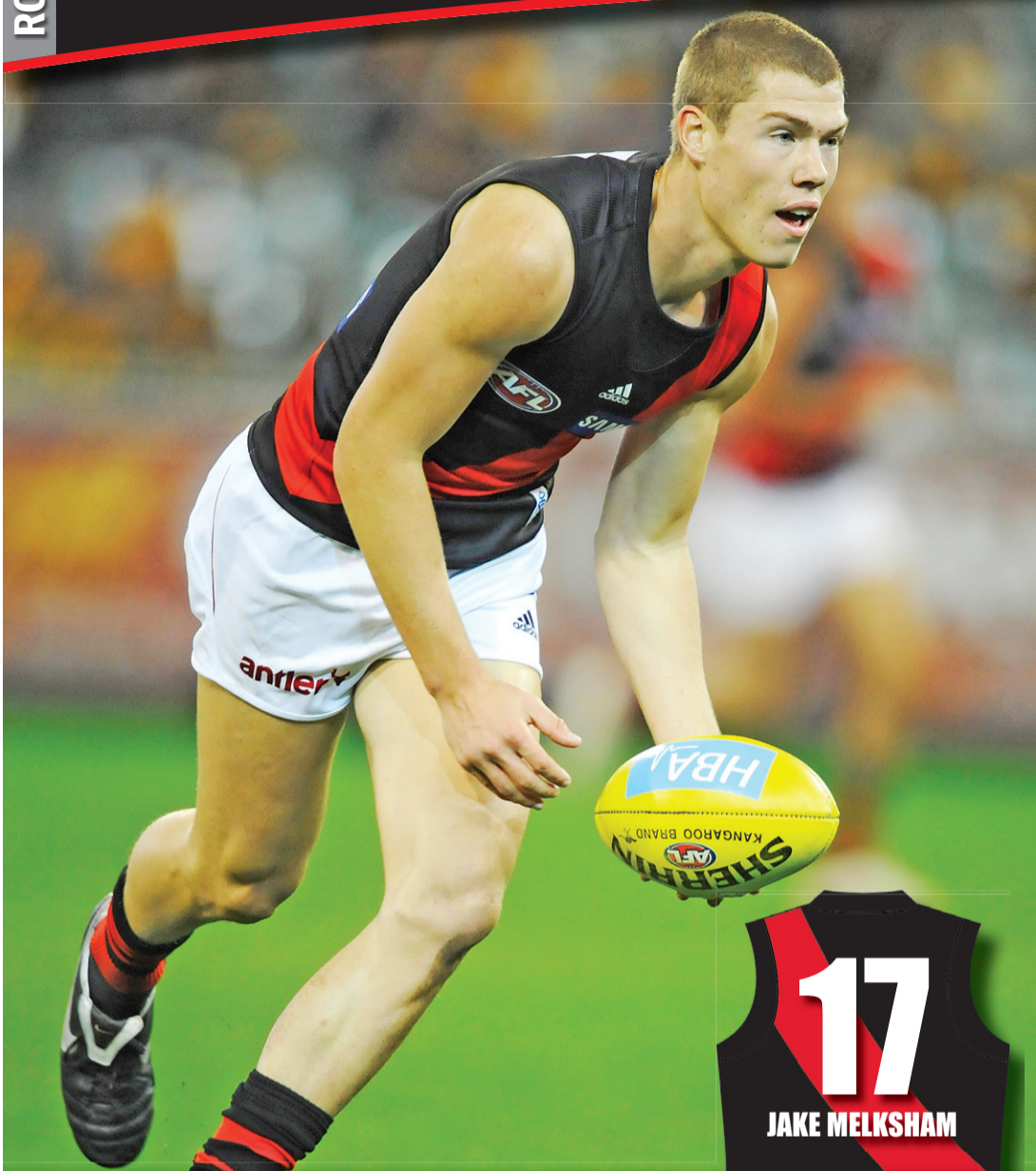
FOOTY FOCUS

ROUND 16



Bendigo Bombers v Collingwood

Tannery Lane, Strathfieldsaye, noon tomorrow



17

JAKE MELKSHAM

WESTY'S WORD



Luke West, The Advertiser

THE VERDICT

A MASSIVE game for the Bendigo Bombers tomorrow when Collingwood comes to town. The Bombers couldn't have been more impressive last week in defeating top side Williamstown by three points. But the Bombers can't afford to sit back and be content with that performance, they have to back it up again against another quality opponent. The Bombers have already defeated the Magpies once this season and are unbeaten at Tannery Lane... albeit having played there just once previously. **Bendigo Bombers by 19.**

OTHER ROUND 16 GAMES

CASEY SCORPIONS v Gold Coast
Werribee Tigers v WILLIAMSTOWN
BOX HILL HAWKS v Geelong
NORTH BALLARAT v Coburg Tigers
Frankston v NORTHERN BULLANTS
Sandringham v PORT MELBOURNE
Last week: 4 Total: 78



SENIORS

BENDIGO BOMBERS v COLLINGWOOD



B	T. Slattery	Flaherty	Atkinson	B	Reed	Anthony	Hunter
HB	Dyson	Cloke	H. Slattery	HB	Buckley	N. Brown	Cook
C	Melksham	Cramer	Jetta	C	Sinclair	O'Bree	Barham
HF	Marigliani	Carlisle	Duscher	HF	McCarthy	Wood	Blight
F	Quinn	Bellchambers	Still	F	J. Thomas	Medhurst	Rusling
R	Bock	Myers	Lovett-Murray	R	Fraser	Lockyer	Blair

INTER: (from) Thompson, Liddle, Scanlon, Skipworth, Collins, Delahunty, J. Williams, Dennis*, Shiners

INTER: (from) Sundberg, Francis, Young, McNamara, Carter, Keeffe, K. Pendlebury, Rounds

LAST MEETING

Round 3, 2010, at Victoria Park:

BENDIGO.....3.0 7.6 12.9 **14.14 (98)**
COLLINGWOOD..4.7 7.8 8.11 **9.14 (68)**

GOALS - BENDIGO: J. Cloke, H. Skipworth 3, J. Neagle, L. Jetta 2, T. Bellchambers, J. Williams, J. Laycock, B. Houli 1. **COLLINGWOOD:** L. Rounds, J. Anthony, J. McCarthy, S. Buckley, J. Mellington, S. McNamara, J. Blair, J. Barham, C. Wood 1.

BEST - BENDIGO: J. Cloke, T. Slattery, J. Neagle, T. Shiners, S. Cramer, B. Howlett. **COLLINGWOOD:** K. Pendlebury, J. Barham, J. McCarthy, T. Goldsack, T. Hunter, C. Wood.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Bendigo - 1. Collingwood - 2.

LAST WEEK - ROUND 15

Geelong13.10 (88)
Gold Coast11.5 (71)

Bendigo Bombers..... 9.16 (70)
Williamstown 9.13 (67)

Werribee Tigers14.10 (94)
North Ballarat11.15 (81)

Coburg Tigers 12.9 (81)
Frankston 10.5 (65)

Port Melbourne14.21 (105)
Collingwood11.16 (82)

Box Hill Hawks 13.12 (90)
Casey Scorpions 12.7 (79)

Sandringham8.8 (56)
Northern Bullants2.6 (18)

VFL 2010

LADDER

TEAM	W	L	D	%	Pts
Williamstown	12	3	0	158.5	48
North Ballarat	12	3	0	127.7	48
Casey Scorpions	11	4	0	107.7	44
Port Melbourne	10	5	0	116.1	40
Box Hill Hawks	9	6	0	112.5	36
Collingwood	9	6	0	112.1	36
Northern Bullants	8	7	0	109.6	32
Bendigo Bombers	8	7	0	106.9	32
Sandringham	6	9	0	89.4	24
Coburg Tigers	5	10	0	88.0	20
Geelong	5	10	0	87.0	20
Werribee Tigers	4	10	1	82.2	18
Gold Coast	4	10	1	81.9	18
Frankston	1	14	0	52.8	4

VFL 2010

GOALKICKERS

PLAYER	TOTAL
Matthew Little (Williamstown).....	64
Corey Jones (North Ballarat).....	43
Dean Galea (Port Melbourne).....	36
Nick Sautner (Sandringham).....	30
Ben Johnson (Geelong).....	30
Callum Sinclair (Port Melbourne).....	29
Clinton Proctor (Frankston).....	29
Patrick Rose (Williamstown).....	29
Andrew Hooper (Williamstown).....	28
Daniel Menzel (Geelong).....	27
Luke Breust (Box Hill Hawks).....	26

FORMER PIONEERS TO PLAY AN AFL GAME:



233*	Chris Tarrant	(Collingwood, Fremantle)
228	Michael Braun	(West Coast)
219	Nathan Brown	(Western Bulldogs, Richmond)
209	Dean Solomon	(Essendon, Fremantle)
190*	Brent Guerra	(Port Adelaide, St Kilda, Hawthorn)
185*	Nick Dal Santo	(St Kilda)
179	Nathan Thompson	(Hawthorn, North Melbourne)
149	Daniel Harris	(North Melbourne)
140*	Josh Hunt	(Geelong)
132*	Adam Selwood	(West Coast)
113*	Rick Ladson	(Hawthorn)
110	Rowan Warfe	(Sydney, Fitzroy)
101*	Andrew Walker	(Carlton)
99*	Colin Sylvia	(Melbourne)
88*	Joel Selwood	(Geelong)

74*	Troy Selwood	(Brisbane)
59	Mark Alvey	(Western Bulldogs, Essendon)
55*	Ben McGlynn	(Hawthorn, Sydney)
46	Luke Livingston	(Carlton)
40*	Jarryn Geary	(St Kilda)
39*	Scott Selwood	(West Coast)
25	Nick Carter	(Fitzroy, Brisbane, Melbourne)
22*	Andrew Collins	(Richmond)
20*	Daniel Connors	(Richmond)
18	Damien Lock	(Carlton)
18	Jordan Doering	(Carlton)
18	Kane Munro	(West Coast)
17*	Dustin Martin	(Richmond)
13	Callan Beasy	(Carlton)
7	Ashley Watson	(North Melbourne)
5	Travis Baird	(Brisbane, Western Bulldogs)
3	Djaran Whyman	(North Melbourne)
2*	Robbie Tarrant	(North Melbourne)
2	Brent Frewen	(Fitzroy)
2	Michael O'Brien	(West Coast)
2	Josh Thewlis	(Sydney)

Winning isn't everything: Byrne

From page 25

The Pioneers - who have won just one of their 14 games so far this year - don't have the money to offer scholarships to help entice players to move to Bendigo.

In contrast, there are three players - Kerang's Troy Davis at the Geelong Falcons, and Hopetoun pair Coleman Schache and Lucas Cook at North Ballarat - who hail from Bendigo's region, but are playing for rival teams as they are boarding in regional cities renowned for having strong school-based football programs.

"Troy Davis would be the centre half-back in our side; he is a quality player who has played Vic Country," Byrne said.

"When we played North Ballarat earlier in the year, Lucas Cook kicked six goals against us and was the difference. Then you've got Coleman Schache, who was in the Vic Country squad as well.

"So if you put those three into our team, it doesn't take much... we've got kids playing centre half-forward and centre half-back who should be playing on a half-forward and half-back flank.

"A lot of people say to me about these kids who are going to the colleges in Ballarat, 'why don't you make them play with you?'"

"But it's not fair on the kid. He's boarding, and we're only going to get him for eight games or so a year because of the way those colleges play their footy, so it's not fair on those kids.

"I don't have a problem with the kids going to colleges over there because we just can't afford to give them a scholarship."

And as each year goes on, the Pioneers are finding it increasingly difficult to find host families to accommodate those players who live far from Bendigo.

The challenges also involve dealing with the tyranny of distance, with the Pioneers' region stretching from Kyneton to Mildura to Echuca.

With players spread so far apart, the Pioneers only get their entire squad together one night a week, on a Wednesday.

"Whereas you have the Melbourne-based sides that train together three nights a week; they are just like a league side," Byrne said.

"So that's another of the things we're up against.

"But the bottom line for us is we're about the draft, players going on and playing with the Bendigo Bombers or another VFL club, and then players going back to the Bendigo Football League.

"If you go through the BFL and look at the list of names who have come through the Pioneers that we've brought to town... there has been a stack of them who have come through over the years; nearly all the BFL clubs would have kids who have come through the Pioneers.

"When we have kids go back to their club during the season if we have a bye, you can see they're not out of place in senior footy."

Golden Square's Tom Paterson, South Bendigo's Jayke Barrack and Sandhurst's Anthony Dennis have all shown that in the BFL in recent weeks.

And don't forget Sandhurst on-baller Lee Coghlan, who last year won the Michelsen Medal as an 18-year-old, having played for the Pioneers in 2008.

"Lee was a great player for us, and to be honest, I get as big a kick out of Lee achieving something like that as I do with players being drafted," Byrne said.

"When I was with Gippsland, I took great pride in watching players who had played with the Power during the year go back and get best on ground in grand finals with their home clubs.

"As long as the kids get the best out of themselves while they are with us, that's all you can ask for."